

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[00070] A node (20, 20-2) of a packet switching network has a chain of processing units (30) through which a media stream of packets is routed for sequentially processing of each packet of the media stream. Each of the plural processing units of the chain generates an intra-node performance monitoring packet, and sends the intra-node performance monitoring packet to a performance monitoring unit (40) situated at the node. Each intra-node performance monitoring packet includes an indication of time spent by the packet of the media stream in the respective processing unit. The performance monitoring unit provides an indication of delay in the node for the media stream, e.g., the delay experienced at each processing unit of the chain and the overall delay for a packet of the media stream through the plural processing units comprising the processing chain of the node. For each processing unit, the intra-node performance monitoring packet can include plural components, such as a first component attributable to processing and a second component attributable to queuing delay. In case the delay experienced by the media stream packet between processing units of the node is not negligible, the performance monitoring unit acquires (e.g., estimates) a time required for the packet of the media stream to travel between successive processing units using a switch monitor packet. Each of the plural processing units can handle plural media streams, in different sequences if necessary. The performance monitoring unit is capable of providing an indication of delay in the node for each of the plural media streams.